

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1839 without my signature.

Protection of California consumers is of paramount concern to my Administration. This bill provides a good foundation upon which to start discussions next year. The terms contained in the bill need to be further addressed and refined. If the goal is consumer protection, then there needs to be a level playing field with standards and terms based on objectivity and clarity, which will provide true benefit to the consumer.

My concerns with this bill include the vague definitions of “certified” used cars, “qualified technician” and the new definitions it places into law of “sellers” and “dealers”. These terms will likely cause the Department of Motor Vehicles to be involved in costly investigations over unenforceable and conflicting definitions. Furthermore, since vehicles are not leased under a conditional sale contract, the inclusion of leases in the bill will likely lead to disputes and increased litigation. Federal law addresses the concerns raised regarding credit scores and therefore, is unnecessary and could lead to potential confusion for consumers.

I look forward to working with the Legislature to pass an improved law that will resolve my concerns with this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger